Mr. David Hartman
Good Morning America
7 W. 66 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10019

4/1/81

Dear Mr. Hartman,

Chuck Lewis, of ABC News Washington, who is familiar with my work, has asked me to send you the enclosed records because of your perceptive point on this morning's show. This saves two days over my sending them to him. I'm sending him copies.

You observed correctly that there is always official assurance that political assassinations are never the consequence of a conspiracy.

How early this was the official determination and policy in the assassination of President Kennedy is reflected in the first of the two enclosed records, from Department of Justice file 129-11. Katzenbach, who drafted this personally (I also have the holograph), was then Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General. The date is only the third day after that assassination, prior to any real investigation and prior to the appointment of the Warren Commission. Yet he states, among other things and at the outset of his memo to the White House, that "the public must be" assured that Oswald was the lone assassin and that there is proof that would have convicted him. Both are untrue and neither was or could have been proven by then. In addition, he states that "speculation ...must be cut off..."

The second record, from the FBI file 62-109060, is from a then assistant director to the assistant to the director, the channel to Hoover, quoting Katzenbach two days later. To Katzenbach, whether or not Oswald had the capability of being the assassin is no more than "minutia."

The notes are Hoover's. To him the concept of a Preisdential Commission was "sinister."

What you are not aware of is that this also was the policy of the committee Messrs. Blakey and Billings were on. Their contrary conclusion was forced on them by an attempted putdown of critics that backfired. If they appear again after you receive this may I suggest that you ask them what investigations they conducted to determine whether or not anyone other than Oswald and Ray fired any shots and where this is reflected in their report and public records?

I obtained these records under the Freedom of Information Act. I now have about a quarter of a million pages of once-withheld official records. As Chuck knew in speaking to me, these are available to all, including your staff if you or it ever feel the need.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg